

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **amend** or **cancel** the following claims as indicated:

Claim 2 (Amended). The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an allocating device that allocates [a predetermined] the supply duration within one sampling period, and a [specifying] setting device that [specifies a detail of processing of the music tone signals in accordance with the predetermined supply duration so that the signal processor can complete the processing of the music tone signals within the predetermined supply duration] operates based on music data which commands generating of music tones, and that sets one or more of tone generating processes based on the music data to one or more of the plurality of the tone generating channels which time-divisionally process the music tone signals within the allocated supply duration.

Claim 3 (Twice Amended). The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the allocating device allocates the [predetermined] supply duration based on a [predetermined] number of tone generating channels through which music tones are generated concurrently by the processing of the music tone signals.

Claim 4 (Cancel). [The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the allocating device allocates the predetermined supply duration based on a predetermined number of steps by which a program is executed stepwise for processing the music tone signals.]

Claim 5 (Twice Amended). The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the [specifying] setting device [specifies the detail of the processing of the music tone signals in terms of a number of] selects one tone generating channel from the tone generating channels through which the signal processor can generate music tones by the clock signal supplied in the supply duration among the plurality of the tone generating channels, and sets the tone generating process to the selected tone generating channel [through which the music tone signals are processed for concurrent generation of music tones].

Claim 6 (Cancel). [The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the specifying device specifies the detail of the processing of the music tone signals in terms of a kind of a program selectably executed by the signal processor in the processing of the music tone signals.]

Claim 7 (Amended). The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a [specifying] setting device that [specifies a detail of processing of the music tone signals] operates based on music data which commands generating of music tones, and that sets one or more of tone generating processes based on the music data to one or more of the plurality of the tone generating channels, and an allocating device that allocates [a supply] the supply duration within one sampling period in accordance with the [specified detail of the processing] tone generating process set by the setting device [so that the signal processor can complete the specified detail of the processing of the music tone signals within the allocated supply duration].

Claim 8 (Twice Amended). The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein [the allocating device allocates the supply duration in accordance with the specified detail of the processing in terms of a predetermined number of channels through which music tones are generated concurrently by the processing of the music tone signals] the setting device selects one tone generating channel from the plurality of the tone generating channels, and sets the tone generating process to the selected tone generating channel.

Claim 9 (Cancel). [The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the allocating device allocates the supply duration in accordance with the specified detail of the processing in terms of a predetermined number of steps by which a program is executed stepwise for processing the music tone signals.]

Claim 10 (Cancel). [The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the specifying device specifies the detail of the processing of the music tone signals in terms of a number of channels through which the music tone signals are processed for concurrent generation of music tones.]

Claim 11 (Cancel). [The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the specifying device specifies the detail of the processing of the music tone signals in terms of a kind of a program selectably executed by the signal processor in the processing of the music tone signals.]

Claim 18 (Amended). The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a setting device that operates based on music data which commands generating of music tones, and that sets one or more of tone generating processes based on the music data to one or more of the plurality of the tone generating channels, wherein in case that a tone generating process is set to a tone generating channel, the clock controller starts supplying of the clock signal for a period necessary for the tone generating channel to generate music tones so that the tone generating channel of the clock signal for the period when the volume level of the music tones generated by the tone generating channel becomes less than a predetermined value.

Please **add** the following new claims as indicated below:

Claim 19. The method according to claim 16 further comprising the step of setting one or more of tone generating processes to one or more of the tone generating channels based on music data which commands generating of music tones, wherein in case that a tone generating process is set to a tone generating channel, the supplying step starts supplying of the clock signal for a period necessary for the tone generating channel to generate music tones so that the tone generated channel starts the generating of the music tone, and the stopping step stops supplying of the clock signal for the period when the volume level of the music tones generated by the tone generating channel becomes less than a predetermined value.

Claim 20. The medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprises the step of setting one or more of tone generating processes to one or more of the tone generating channels based on music data which commands generating of music tones, wherein in case that a tone generating process is set to a tone generating channel, the supplying step starts supplying of the clock signal for a period necessary for the tone generating channel to generate music tones so that the tone generating channel starts the generating of the music tone, and the stopping step stops supplying of the clock signal for the period when the volume level of the music tones generated by the tone generating channel becomes less than a predetermined value.